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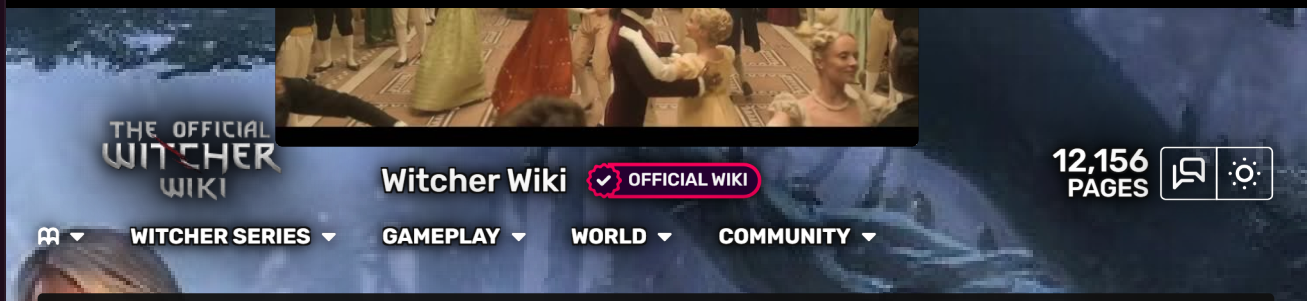

Nilfgaardian language

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Nilfgaardian is a language based on the Elder Speech and used in the Nilfgaardian Empire, originating from the Nilfgaard proper itself.

It is characterized by long, drawn-out syllables[1] and hard pronunciation.[2] Some words of the classic Elder Speech have a totally different meaning in the Nilfgaardian: for example, *y*

dian or *white*,

lfgaardians.

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Dictionary

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z Phrases

A

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
a	to/towards (From French: à, Spanish: a)
aâ'anval[3]	attack (from Dutch: aanval)

addan, adan	dance; dancer; dancing
adhart[3]	forward (Scottish Gaelic: adhart - forwardness, progress)
aecáemm	to follow (Possibly from Old English: gecuman, or Middle English: icomen - move toward, arrive at, come together)
aedragh	to provoke / to disturb
aen	from, to, for, with, of, in, out of, at, by, down, in, into, until, on, like, as
aep	of (mostly used for marking hereditary ties; From Welsh: ap/map - son/descendent of)
allaidh	barbarians (Irish/Scottish Gaelic: allaidh - wild, fierce)
ard	great (Irish: ard - high, tall, ambitious)
arse	arse (UK), ass (US), butt, rump (Dutch: aars)
áth	eyes
a'vean[4]	gates
awr	sir

B

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
beisten[5]	animals (From Dutch: beesten)
belean'graec	important, something important (From Dutch: belangrijk - pronounciation is nearly the same)
beseta	tweezers
bhampair	vampire (From Scottish Gaelic: bhampair, but also resembles other languages' words for vampire)
bleidd	wolf (From Welsh: blaidd - wolf)
bloede	bloody, gory, damn (UK: bloody hell / Dutch: Bloederig = bloody)
bu'rac[3]	bumpkin (from Polish: burak - literally means "beetroot" but in common language also means "bumpkin"/"dumbass")

C

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
caer	land, place, home (Likely from Welsh: caer - fort, castle)

calm	calm, ease
carn	tomb, grave, barrow (From Scottish Gaelic: càrn - cairn)
ceas'raet	empire (of Nilfgaard) (From Dutch: Keizerrijk)
claidheamh	sheathe (a sword) (From Scottish Gaelic: claidheamh - sword)
creasa	must, necessity, obligation, inevitability, duty
cuan	whore
cyrche	attacking

D

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
daar'tocht	conspiring/conspire
daerienn	sorcerer, sorceress
deien	to serve (From Dutch: Dienen)
deith	flame
deithwen	white flame
dòchas	hope (From Scottish Gaelic: dòchas)
d'yaebl	devil (From Spanish: diablo / Dutch: duivel / Polish: diabeł / Irish: diabhal)

E

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
e'er[3]	honor (from Dutch: eer)
eigean	necessary, must, have to (From Irish: is éigean - it is necessary)
eimyr	hedgehog
eisio	ice (from Dutch: ijs)
ess	to be, is (From Italian: essere)
esse	will be, will (From Latin: esse)
essea	I am
esse'ionndrainn	I miss (From Scottish Gaelic: iondrainn - miss, yearn; literally "there is yearning/missing")

esse'lath	loose (likely that it literally means "there is looseness")
ess'spaet	spat (From English: spit, likely means literally "there is spit" or "is spitting")
evelienn	all, everyone
evgyr	now?, stop / halt?
evn'gesaen	ambassador (From German: Abgesandter / Dutch: afgezant)

F

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
feainn	sun; also the sixth savaed in the elven calendar
fion	wine (From Irish: fíon - wine)
fydd	passage

G

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
gaedeen	done (From Dutch: gedaan)
gàrdan	guards (From Scottish Gaelic: geàrdan - guards)
geehaet	hard
ge'erillan	guerillas
gláeddyv (plural: glaeddyvan)	sword (From Welsh: cleddyf, plural suffix -an likely from Scottish Gaelic)
gloir, glòir[3]	glory (From French: gloire, Scottish Gaelic: glòir - glory)
glys	river (*aevon* in Elder Speech)
grìffean	griffin (From English)
gvaedyn[4]	tenacious one ('-dyn' element might be from Welsh: dyn - person, man)
gvaelded[4]	bloodthirsty one

H

Nilfgaardian dialect	English

hael	greeting (long life to...); health (From English: hail, hale)
hanse	unit, armed group of friends, gang (From English: hanse)
havfrue	sirens
heet	fever
hen	old (From Welsh: hen - old, cf. Irish: sean - old)
hoersoon	whoreson (from Dutch: hoerenzoon)
hvren	fuck
hwre	here (From English: here)

I

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
iarean[3]	to search (Possibly from Irish: iarraidh - want/desire)
il'edrith	magic
il'edrithean	mage
inis, inisan	isle, isles (From Irish/Scottish Gaelic: inis - island, cf. Welsh: ynys)
iss'kund	medicine

J

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
jakkten	hunt (from Dutch: jacht)
joc[3]	joke (From English)

K

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
katte	cat
Ker'zaer[6]	Emperor (From German: Kaiser / Dutch: Keizer)
kroofeir[3]	haystack (From Irish: cruach féir - hayrick/haystack)
kusse	genitals (From Dutch: Kutte)

L

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
laddhe	kill (From Welsh: ymladd - to kill)
laeke, loc	lake (Second word from Irish: loch - lake)
larwm	alarm, alert, help (From Welsh: larwm - alarm)
luned	daughter / young girl
Lyrien	Lyrian

M

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
maerche	women (From Welsh: merched - girls, daughters, women)
math	good, well (From Scottish Gaelic: math)
mire	look, see (From Latin: mīror, and descendant words in Romance languages)
moeras	swamps (from Dutch: moeras)
mòran	a lot (From Scottish Gaelic: mòran)
morv	die (past tense: marv, dead) (From Breton: marv; Irish/Scottish Gaelic: marbh; Welsh: marw - dead)
morvud, morvudd	enemy, enemies

N

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
na[3]	or (From Irish: ná)
namyn	except
neén / ne	no, not (from Dutch: neen/nee)
n'ess / n'esse	isn't (also maybe "won't")
niss	armpits
nordlingaen	demonym for Nordling
nyald[3]	needle (From Dutch: naald)

P

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
pest	pestilence, plague, blight (from Dutch: pest)
piemelikkers[5]	cocksuckers (from Dutch: piemellikkers)
pund	vomit

O

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
orde	orders (From Latin ōrdō or indirectly from another language like English: order)

Q

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
que	that / what (From Italian: che, French: quoi/que, Spanish: que)
que'ess	how many (perhaps literally "what is")

R

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
rach[3]	to move (From Irish: Rachaidh - will go)
raet	country (From Dutch: Rijk)
ratreut[3]	to fall back, retreat (From Old French: retrait)
rechta	verdict
rotsaak[5]	scumbag (From Dutch: Rotzak)

S

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
sàbh	saw (From Scottish Gaelic: sàbh - saw)

schijtleister[5]	coward (From Dutch: Schijtlijster, literally *little shitbird*)
se'ege[3]	victory (From Dutch: Zege)
seiâ'fyll[3]	formation (Possibly from Welsh: sefyll - to stand)
sheyss[3]	dammit (From German: Scheiße, *shit*)
squesse	excuse me (From Italian: mi scusi)
strigean[6]	strigas
stronthe[5]	shit (From Dutch: Stront)

T

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
taing	thank you (From Scottish Gaelic: taing - thanks)
tanalach	shallow (From Scottish Gaelic: tanalachd - shallowness)
tedd	time, age, season (From Dutch: Tijd)
thu	you (informal) (From Scottish Gaelic, and other European languages with similar pronouns)
tròcair	mercy (From Scottish Gaelic: tròcair - mercy)
toorean	wrath
tuvean[3] / tuv'en	death
twe	two (From Dutch: twee; English: two)

U

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
uav	your (From Dutch: uw?)
ulf'heidan	monsters (From Old Norse: ulfheðinn - 'warrior cloaked in wolfskin')

V

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
va	to go (From Spanish: va - he/she goes)
va'en	trip, journey

vaerb'tinnea	good will
vaer'truov	to hope, to trust (From Dutch: vertrouw)
va faill	goodbye, farewell (literally means 'go well'?)
var'oom?[3]	what? (from German: warum / Dutch: waarom)
vatt'ghern	witcher
vedrai	hold him
veldi	very (From Norwegian: veldig - very, really, highly)
veloë	fast, quick; quickly (From Italian: veloce)
verloos	losses (from Dutch: verlies)
visse	you (formal) (From French: vous; Spanish: vos)
vort	further, away (from oneself), still (From German: fort)
vùtter	water

W

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
wen	white (From Welsh: gwen/gwyn; soft mutates to wen/wyn under certain conditions)

Y

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
y	and (perhaps from Spanish: y)
yn	on, over, upon, one

Z

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
zaighderan	battalions (From Scottish Gaelic: saighdearan - soldiers/archers)
zèamach	warning (Possibly from Irish: seas amach - stand out?)

Phrases

Nilfgaardian dialect	English
Aâ'anval neen orde!	Attack at will!
Aecáemm aen me	Follow me
Aen Ard Feainn	By the Great Sun
Aen iarean nyald aep kroofeir	Like searching for a needle in a haystack
A d'yaebl aép arse	A devil up your arse
Esse'ionndrainn aep me caer	I miss my home
Bloede pest	Bloody plague (imprecation)
Deithwen Addan yn Carn aep Morvudd	The White Flame Dancing on the Barrows of his Enemies
E'er y glòir	Honor and glory (usually used as a greeting)
Ess se'ege aen a'vean!	Victory is within us!
Esse'lath seiâ'fyll	Loose formation
Glaeddyvan vort!	Drop the swords!
Gloir aen Ard Feainn	Praise be the Great Sun
Glòir aen Ker'zaer	Glory to the Emperor
Hael Ker'zaer	Long live the Emperor
Larwm! Essea tuv'en a'vean![4]	Help! They're here at the gates!
Me hen aveen'eans aep tooraen. Me peuvt aen alvear'daeg	I am too old for wrath. All I feel is simple grief
Me voel'tocht aen geehaet va'en. Me vaer'truov, het aen belean'graec	I had a hard journey. I trust it is something important.
Neen ratreut	Do not dare fall back
N'ess aedragh a me	Do not provoke / disturb me
N'ess tedd a thu	I have no time for you
ne'esse a fydd	no passage

Ne tuv'en que'ss, luned!	Do not kill yourself, girl!
Que'ess zaighderan aep Dravograd vaen?	How many battalions are marching on Dravograd?
Que suecc's? / Que aen suecc's?	What's going on? / How are things?
Quess'aen?	What's new?
Se'ege na tuvean	Victory or death
Ti'lsoë eveigh.	Always faithful.
Tuvean y gloir	Death and glory
va calm	at ease, keep calm
va vort	go away
Veldi math	Very well
Visse deien aep Ceas'raet. N'et aen vaerb'tinnea, het aen creasa	You serve the Empire. It's not your good will, it's your duty
Visse ess'spaet aep uav raet, daar'tocht aep Nordling daerienn	You spat on your country, conspiring with Nordling sorceresses
Visse gead'tocht gaedeen	You have done well
Woh erre sinde? Waen iche hene?	Who are you? What am I doing here?

Notes

- Nilfgaardian differs from the classic Elder Speech in that much of it seems to be based on Dutch.
    - In the *Blood and Wine* expansion, Nazairi soldiers use a great number of Dutch profanities; these include *rotzak* ("scumbag"), *schijtlijster* ("coward"), *stront* ("shit") and *piemellikkers* ("cocksuckers"). They also use the word *kusse*, later explained by Regis to mean vagina (akin to Dutch *kut* and its older form *kutte*, which carry the same meaning, though it more likely came from Danish where the word means "pussy").
    - After being asked by a fan, Mateusz Tomaszkiewicz who works as a narrative designer for CD PROJEKT RED confirmed Nilfgaardian used in their games is a mix of Elder Speech and Dutch.[7]

References

1. ↑ *The Lady of the Lake*
2. ↑ *Time of Contempt*
3. ↑ 3.00 3.01 3.02 3.03 3.04 3.05 3.06 3.07 3.08 3.09 3.10 3.11 3.12 3.13 3.14 3.15 3.16 *Gwent: The Witcher Card Game*
4. ↑ 4.0 4.1 4.2 4.3 *Thronebreaker: The Witcher Tales*
5. ↑ 5.0 5.1 5.2 5.3 5.4 *Blood and Wine* expansion
6. ↑ 6.0 6.1 *The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt*
7. ↑ Mateusz Tomaszkiewicz about Skellige jargon and Nilfgaardian

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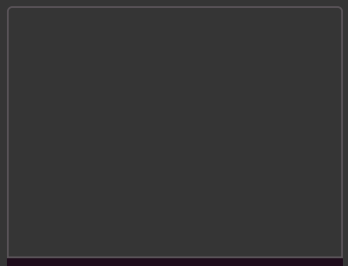

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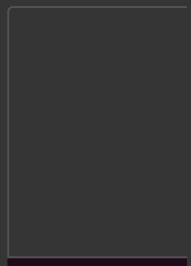

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